

VDFP LOGBOOK

Virginia Department of Fire Programs Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6

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A Message from the Executive Director

I am writing this bi-monthly message for our VDFP Logbook with mixed emotions, as our staff works hard to complete many on-going projects and prepare for our long-awaited Richmond office consolidation that is scheduled to take place sometime in early December 2004.

As most of you may know by now, our friend and colleague Adam K. Thiel left the agency on Oct. 31, 2004 to accept a new and exciting career opportunity. Adam is now serving the City of Goodyear, Arizona as the deputy fire chief of operations and his duty began on Nov. 1st. Goodyear is a suburb on the west side of Phoenix and they are projecting a massive growth spurt there over the next 10 years.

Adam provided us with superb leadership as our VDFP team remained diligent in operating through one of the worst fiscal crisis to be experienced by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Over the past 2-1/2 years with Adam, VDFP has created a new strategic plan that will cover the next 3 years and beyond; implemented the new Fire Service Training Record System (FSTRS); expanded our field divisions from 5 to 7; enhanced the organizational structure; improved the agency's relationship with all stakeholder groups; secured grant funding for the expansion of programs, staff, offices, and vehicles; improved the financial status of the agency; expanded public fire and life safety education; and produced three professional reports – HJ588 – Study of Reliable Public Safety Radio Communications for Emergency Personnel, Public Assembly Fire & Life Document, and a comprehensive Fire Service Needs Assessment.

While this list of accomplishments is not conclusive of all the activities that our agency has participated in over the past 2-1/2 years, it certainly exhibits the forward and upward momentum that we proudly share. That said, we are committed to maintaining and increasing this momentum as the VDFP team lives up to our vision: To be the internationally recognized and trusted leader in providing fire and emergency services support to communities throughout Virginia.

On November 1, 2004, Governor Mark R. Warner appointed me to serve as your next Executive Director for VDFP. I'm honored to have served VDFP as the Chief Deputy Director for over 2 years and I look forward to continuing the cooperative working relationship that we have enjoyed with the Virginia Fire Services Board, other state agencies, and all of our fire-rescue service stakeholders.

As we enter the 2004 fall season, please be reminded of potential home hazards that can occur with the improper use of heating systems, candles, Christmas trees, and decorative lighting. For more on holiday fire safety tips, please visit our website.

Respectfully,

Aubrey W. Hyde, Jr.

www.vafire.com

November 2004

Aid-To-Localities Update

GOVERNOR WARNER ANNOUNCES \$14.6 MILLION IN LOCAL AID FOR FIRE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ~State insurance assessments fund is up \$3 million this year for fire programs~

RICHMOND - Governor Mark R. Warner announced the allocation of more than \$14.6 million for fire prevention and response in Virginia's incorporated towns, cities and counties.

"Virginia's volunteer and career fire service personnel demonstrate an extraordinary commitment and dedication to their communities, and are ranked among the best trained and finest in the nation," said Governor Warner. "These funds - an increase of more than \$3 million over last year's allocation - will assist them in acquiring new fire equipment, training, and other tools that will enhance their capabilities to protect citizens."

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs administers the fund, which is generated by assessments on certain insurance policies sold in the state and is collected by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Allocations are population-based, and funds are transferred electronically to 324 qualifying incorporated towns, cities and counties across the Commonwealth. Cities and counties receive at least \$12,000 and towns receive at least \$6,000. State law mandates that the funds cannot be used directly or indirectly to supplant or replace any other funds appropriated by counties, cities and towns for fire service operations.

A detailed report table providing specific dollar amounts for all eligible localities may be obtained from the VDFP website at www.vafire.com/grants.htm.

VDFP PUTS OUT F.I.R.E.

The Virginia Department of Fire Programs has recently launched our 2004 Strategic Plan – Foundations In Reaching Excellence (F.I.R.E.)

Building the Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFP) Strategic Plan 2004 has been a multi-faceted process. Our goal was creating a living document to serve as our guide over the next three years and beyond.

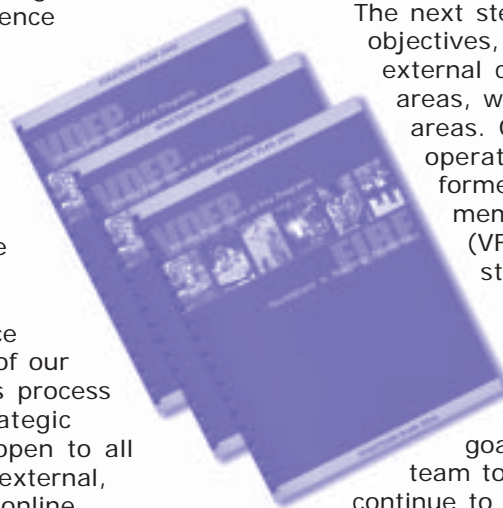
Development of VDFP's guidance principles was the first priority of our strategic planning process. This process encompassed 12 statewide strategic planning stakeholder sessions open to all of our customers, internal and external, across the Commonwealth; an online stakeholder survey; and extensive staff work.

The results: our vision sets a high standard for excellence, our mission describes the services we will undertake to achieve our shared vision, and our values define how we

will get there together.

The next step was to consolidate all of our objectives, as identified by our internal and external customers, into 21 broad goal areas, which align with our 7 service areas. Once this task was complete, 21 operational planning teams were formed, consisting of VDFP staff members, Virginia Fire Services Board (VFSB) members, and our stakeholders.

These operational planning teams are charged with developing activities and tasks which will help achieve our goals, and working together as a team to accomplish our goals. They will continue to meet throughout the life of our plan.



Visit www.vafire.com to download the Strategic Plan in its entirety or call Christy King at 804/ 371-0220 to request a copy.

VDFP FYI

SAFETY/TRAINING TIP

Ladders:

Have your ground ladders been service tested this year?

Let's be sure that we don't have defective ladders in service. Remember that exposure to heat and chemicals can cause defects. Ladders can be easily damaged on the fire ground and we don't detect the problem until the next operation. Conduct your test in compliance with NFPA Standard 1932.

Let's be safe.

PUBLIC EDUCATION TIP

Candles:

Extinguish all candles when leaving the room or going to sleep.

Keep candles away from items that can catch fire (e.g. clothing, books, paper, curtains, Christmas trees, flammable decorations).

2004 State Fair After-Action Report

Approximately 22,000 (mostly couples and families with children) attended the 2004 State Fair. When they stopped by the VDFP exhibit in the Technology center they were in for an interactive experience.

While general information on the fire services and recruit information could be obtained at the booth at any time, VDFP expanded its educational offerings to include Spanish fire safety, fire safety for children, adults and individuals with disabilities, as well as fire extinguisher training.

VDFP enlisted the services of bilingual firefighters to assist in disseminating fire safety information to the Hispanic community while Buckets the Clown engaged the children in fire safety activities. Various fire safety topics were discussed during mini-classes held throughout the duration of the fair. In addition, numerous fair-goers participated in fire extinguisher training sessions.

Over 7,000 fire safety activity books were handed out to children who visited the VDFP booth. Teachers/educators were encouraged to sign up to receive National Standards of Learning correlated fire safety literature to incorporate into their lessons. Most importantly visitors to the VDFP booth received a warm welcome, some fire safety and fire service information, and the comfort of knowing that Virginia government is dedicated to the safety of its citizens.

Thank you to all VDFP Staff and Instructors who helped make the exhibit a huge success.

VFSB Appointments

The following individuals have been recently appointed to the Virginia Fire Services Board:

Gary Eads - representing Industry (SARA Title III and OSHA)

Carl E. Garrison III - Virginia State Forester

Brian Mullins - representing Virginia Board of Housing and Community Development

Mike Reilly - representing Virginia Chapter of International Association of Arson Investigators

For information on VFSB Board members, please visit www.vafire.com/boardmembers.htm or contact Ms. Christy King at 804/371-0220 or via email: cking@vdfp.state.va.us



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November

2004 Galax Regional Fire School
Date: November 6-7, 2004
Galax, VA

KidSafe Virginia Prevention Conference
Date: November 16, 2004
Richmond, VA

Virginia Public Safety Outreach Conference
Date: November 17-18, 2004
Richmond, VA

VDFP Safety Tour
Date: November 20, 2004
Bristol, VA

December

VFSB Meeting
Date: December 2-3, 2004
Prince William County, VA

VDFP Safety Tour
Date: December 4, 2004
Roanoke, VA

Have a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!

**Before you can count to 68,
a fire department has
responded to an emergency
call in Virginia.**

The Virginia Fire Incident Reporting System
recorded 466,961 incidents during 2003 including:

- 21,846 fires
- 8,691 Structure Fires
- 290,539 EMS/Rescue Calls
- 493 Fire Related Civilian Injuries
- 183 Fire Related Fire Service Injuries
- 69 Fire Related Civilian Deaths
- 0 Fire Related Fire Service Deaths
- \$301.0 Million in Fire Dollar Loss
- 19,016 Mutual Aid Calls

Source: VFIRS – CY 2003 as of November 1, 2004